

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 29, 30, 33, 35, 36, 37 and 39-42 have been amended. Claims 43-46 have been added. Enclosed herewith is USPTO Credit Card payment Form PTO-2038 in the amount of \$86.00 in payment of the fee for the added claims. Please charge any other fees for entry of this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 18-1644.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 29-42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Takizawa, et al. (US 5,734,425) patent in view of the Lightbody, et al. (US 5,471,577) patent. Applicants have amended applicants' claims and with respect to such claims, as amended, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 29, 33, 35, and 37 have been amended to better define applicants' invention. More particularly, applicants' independent claim 29 now recites an image pickup apparatus having an image pickup device for forming a digital image signal, a color space information memory that stores color space information, and a color bit number converting part arranged to convert color bit number of the digital image signal in response to an external signal from an external apparatus. Claim 1 further recites a device recognition attribute information memory for storing device recognition attribute information, and an interface part arranged to communicate with the external apparatus, wherein the interface part sends the device recognition attribute information to the external apparatus, then the interface part receives said external signal with which the color bit number of said digital image signal is controlled using the color space information according to a result of recognition by the external apparatus. Applicants' independent image pickup method claim 33 and image signal processing apparatus and method claims 35 and 37 have been similarly amended.

Such constructions are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. More particularly, the Examiner has argued as follows with respect to the Takizawa, et al. and Lightbody, et al. patents:

"Takizawa discloses an image pickup system comprising: an image pickup device for forming a digital image signal (Takizawa: column 4, lines 10-15); a device recognition attribute information memory for storing device recognition information (Takizawa: column 3, lines 9-12); an interface part arranged to communicate with the external apparatus (Takizawa: column 4, lines 57-60), wherein said interface part sends said device recognition attribute information to said external apparatus (Takizawa: column 3, lines 60-64), then said interface part receives said external control signal with which the digital image signal is controlled (Takizawa: column 3, lines 64-65) according to the result of recognition by said external apparatus (Takizawa: column 3, lines 51-62), as in claim 29. . . . Lightbody discloses the use of a plurality of color characteristic information memory (Lightbody: column 5, lines 20-23) and a color space converting means (Lightbody: column 5, lines 14-25: 'variety of R, G, B, encoding output formats...'), arranged to convert color of said digital signal (Lightbody: column 4, lines 15-25; column 5, lines 1-5) in response to an external signal from an external apparatus using said color characteristic information (Lightbody: column 3, lines 35-40) in order to reduce an amount of image signals (Lightbody: column 5, lines 20-25: 'window clipping parameters') for output to a plurality of external devices (Lightbody: column 5, lines 42-53) for video editing applications (Lightbody: column 6, lines 43-65). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the use of the Lightbody plurality of color characteristic information memory (Lightbody: column 5, lines 20-23) and a color space converting means (Lightbody: column 5, lines 14-15), wherein the color space converting apparatus would controlled in accordance with the external processing apparatus (Lightbody: column 4, lines 15-25; column 5, lines 1-5) for use in an image processing apparatus for output to a plurality of external devices (Lightbody: column 5, lines 42-53) as downloadable into the Takizawa program memory from the external interface (Takizawa: column 4, lines 42-53) in order to enable to Takizawa system have the capability for video editing applications (Lightbody: column 6, lines 52-63). The Takizawa system, now incorporating the Lightbody plurality of color characteristic information memory and a color space converting means as discussed above, has all the features of claim 29."

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's above interpretation of the cited patents. In particular, column 3, lines 9-12, of the Takizawa, et al. patent mention the memory 26, but do not state that it is a device recognition attribute information memory or that it stores device recognition attribute information. These lines only state that the memory 26 stores the digitized signals from the imaging element 23. Furthermore, column 3, lines 60-64 of the Takizawa, et al. patent mention the link 35 between the microcomputer 29 and the external apparatus 36, but are otherwise silent as to the link sending device recognition attribute information to the external apparatus 36. Moreover, lines 51-62 of column 3 of the Takizawa, et al. patent mention nothing about any result recognition by the external apparatus 36. These lines, on the other hand, only describe the microcomputer program memory 29a of the microcomputer 29 and the link 35 between the microcomputer 29 and external apparatus 36 and this is no statement as to result recognition by the apparatus 36.

The basis for the Examiner's reliance on the Takizawa, et al. patent is thus simply not supported by what is actually stated in the Takizawa, et al. patent. Furthermore, the Lightbody, et al. patent also fails to teach or suggest such a construction in an image pickup apparatus or processing system used with such an apparatus.

Additionally, neither patent discloses anything as to an image pickup apparatus having color bit number converting and changing the color bit number based on an external instruction. In the Takizawa, et al. patent only a DSP program for "compression, edge enhancement, smoothing and so forth" is disclosed as being changed. Likewise, the Lightbody, et al patent, only discloses conversion of YUV signals to RGB signals for a variety of formats for these signals.

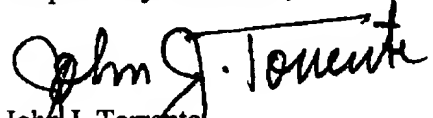
Thus applicants' amended claim 29, and its respective dependent claims, in reciting a space information memory that stores color space information, color bit number converting part arranged to convert color bit number of the digital image signal in response to an external signal from an external apparatus, a device recognition attribute information memory for storing device recognition attribute information, and an interface part arranged to communicate with the external apparatus, wherein the interface part sends the device recognition attribute information to the external apparatus, then the interface part receives said external signal with which the color bit number of said digital image signal is controlled using the color space information according to a result of recognition by the external apparatus, patentably distinguish over the Takizawa, et al. and Lightbody, et al. patents. Applicants' amended independent claims 33, 35 and 37, and their respective dependent claims, and applicants' newly added claims 43-46 thus also patentably distinguish over these patents for similar reasons.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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